



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

October 13, 2006

Preparedness and Planning

Chemical Terrorism Information Matrix

This [document](#), provided by the Michigan Department of Community Health, gives a listing of useful online information sources on chemicals and the type of information offered. This directory is intended to provide users with a ready-to-go list of information sources offering chemical-specific data that could be needed in an emergency.

Combating Nuclear Terrorism

The Department of Energy (DOE) maintains an emergency response capability to quickly respond to potential nuclear and radiological threats in the United States. This [report](#) from the Government Accountability Office discusses (1) the capabilities and assets DOE has to prevent and respond to potential nuclear and radiological attacks in the United States, (2) the physical security measures in place at DOE's two key emergency response facilities and whether they are consistent with DOE guidance, and (3) the benefits of using DOE's aerial background radiation surveys to enhance emergency response capabilities.

Anthrax Appraisal 5 Years Later

September 18 marked the 5-year anniversary of the mailing of the first letter laced with *Bacillus anthracis* in 2001. *B. anthracis* was, and remains, the number 1 threat on most lists of bioterrorism agents, and it is the only agent for which vaccines and multiple treatments exist. This anniversary is a good time to take stock of the [progress](#) that has and has not been made in improving the capacity of the U.S. public health and medical systems to respond to bioterrorist attacks in general, and to respond to a future attack with anthrax, specifically. Overall, while much progress has been made, there is much left to do.

Pandemic

Roche Launches Tamiflu® Website

Roche is pleased to announce the launch of a [new website](#) with the goal of enabling states to obtain valuable information about pandemic planning and the process for obtaining Tamiflu® for pandemic stockpiling. This website covers important topics such as: influenza overview, flu pandemic backgrounder, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) contract, ordering information, Tamiflu® supply and how it is delivered (pallet dimensions and quantities), Tamiflu® and avian flu, state allocations and ordering process.

H5N1 Vaccine Cross-Protection?

[Recent experiments](#) conducted on ferrets demonstrated vaccination against one H5N1 strain resulted in significant cross protection against

News

Linda Scott Receives M.A. Security Studies Degree

The Office of Public Health Preparedness is proud to announce Ms. Linda Scott's recent graduation and award from the Naval Postgraduate School. She received a Master of Arts in Security Studies. Linda is the first person in Michigan to be admitted (and graduated) by this prestigious program. Congratulations!

BCBS Physician Listings

Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Michigan maintains a current database of participating physicians throughout the state. The database is available [online](#) and searchable by any or all of the following: physician type, specialty groups, specialty sub-groups, and location. The query output gives not only the parameters you have defined, but the physician's address, driving directions and maps, telephone number, office hours, languages spoken, insurance plans accepted, and hospital affiliation(s).

Do1Thing

Do1Thing is a program designed to help individuals, families, and businesses take small steps towards being prepared for a disaster. By breaking preparedness into small steps it is easier to get started, and easier to stick with. Based in Mid-Michigan, Do1Thing aims to help citizens do one thing per month to increase their level of preparedness. Each month features a different preparedness topic. Visit the [Do1Thing website](#) for more information.

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other H5N1 strains, and that the cross protection was not always detectable by the usual testing methods. Early use of a poorly matched vaccine that still partially reduces transmission could result in significant mitigation of the outbreak. In addition, a reduction in the severity of disease, even without an accompanying reduction in the actual number of people infected, would have a significant impact on the consequences of a pandemic.



Indonesia to Help Develop Rapid Bird Flu Test

The Indonesian government has joined with a Singaporean firm to develop an early diagnostic bird flu [test kit](#) for humans. Tamiflu®, a drug made by Swiss giant Roche AG which has been used successfully to treat some patients, rapidly loses its effectiveness if not used in early stages of the disease. With a rapid diagnostic test, treatment can proceed as soon as possible.

Scientists Moving Toward Bird Flu Vaccine

A [recent study](#) published in the Journal of Virology asserts that a peptide could provide protection against the influenza virus. The authors demonstrate that the peptide exhibited broad-spectrum antiviral activity against influenza viruses including the H5N1 subtype in vitro. The peptide was protective in vivo even when administered post-infection. Mechanistically, the peptide inhibits the attachment to the cellular receptor preventing infection. Further studies demonstrated that the peptide specifically binds to the viral hemagglutinin (HA) protein. This novel peptide has potential value as a reagent to study virus attachment and as a future therapeutic.

Communications

Proper Cough/Sneeze Techniques

Many diseases are spread by poor coughing and sneezing techniques. Most people put their hands in front of their mouths and noses to stop germs from getting into the air. Unfortunately, this technique puts the germs on their hands. The germs are then spread to telephones and doorknobs and many other surfaces from which they are then picked up by the next user. This [five-minute video](#) was designed to encourage people to cough and sneeze according to the infection control guidelines put forth by the Center for Disease Control. It is aimed at the common citizen. Its message is serious, but it is presented with humor in such a way that it engages the viewer's attention for a full five minutes while the message is repeated in interesting new ways.

Ms. Melissa Flourney from LANO Presents on Hurricane Katrina

Melissa Flourney, President and CEO for the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations (LANO), visited OPH and delivered a powerful presentation on the role non-profit organizations play during emergencies. In particular, Ms. Flourney discussed the 211 service as an indispensable asset in such times. During Hurricane Katrina, 211 greatly alleviated the burden of 911 operators by answering non-emergency phone calls. Ms. Flourney suggested strategies of how Michigan could maximize the use of 211 throughout the state, particularly for emergency preparedness. Ms. Flourney's presentation was video taped, and the DVD is available through the OPH Library.

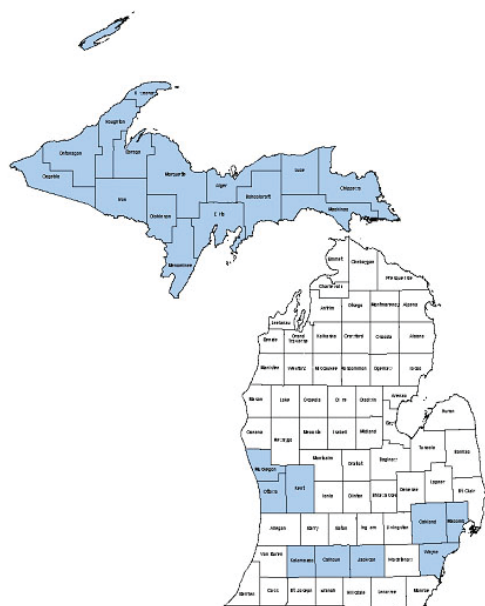


Figure 1. Current 211 coverage is shown in blue. Service is currently provided to 60% of Michigan's population. Washtenaw, Livingston, and Monroe will begin 211 service on November 1, 2006.

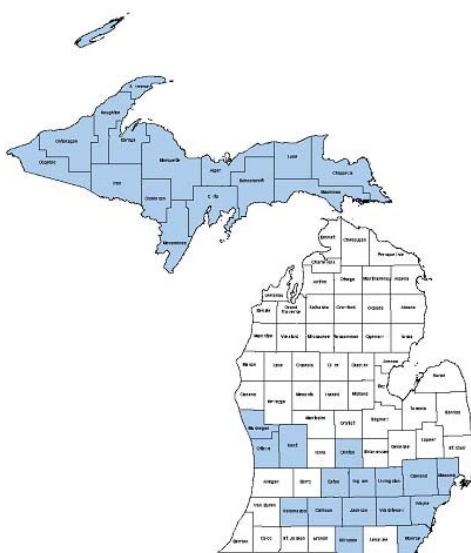


Figure 2. By February 2007, 211 will add Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Hillsdale Counties to their service area. This will increase 211 coverage to 70% of Michigan's population.

Surveillance

H5N1 Virus Replicates More Strongly Than Common Flu

Avian influenza A (H5N1) viruses cause severe disease in humans, but the basis for their virulence remains unclear. In vitro and animal studies indicate that high and disseminated viral replication is important for disease pathogenesis. Laboratory experiments suggest that virus-induced cytokine dysregulation may contribute to disease severity. To assess the relevance of these findings for human disease, the authors of [this study](#) performed virological and immunological studies in 18 individuals with H5N1 and 8 individuals infected with human influenza virus subtypes. Influenza H5N1 infection in humans is characterized by high pharyngeal virus loads and frequent detection of viral RNA in rectum and blood. Viral RNA in blood was present only in fatal H5N1 cases and was associated with higher pharyngeal viral loads. The authors

observed low peripheral blood T-lymphocyte counts and high chemokine and cytokine levels in H5N1-infected individuals, particularly in those who died, and these correlated with pharyngeal viral loads. Genetic characterization of H5N1 viruses revealed mutations in the viral polymerase complex associated with mammalian adaptation and virulence. The authors' observations indicate that high viral load, and the resulting intense inflammatory responses, are central to influenza H5N1 pathogenesis. The focus of clinical management should be on preventing this intense cytokine response by early diagnosis and effective antiviral treatment.

Healthcare Preparedness

NIMS Implementation Activities for Hospitals and Healthcare Systems

On September 12, 2006 the NIMS Integration Center released NIMS Implementation Activities for Hospitals and Healthcare Systems, which for the first time identifies specific implementation measures for healthcare organizations.

- [NIMS Implementation Activities for Hospitals and Healthcare Systems](#)
- [NIMS Implementation for Hospitals](#)
- [Summary of NIMS Implementation Activities](#)



Training & Education

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Oct. 19, 2006 1pm-3pm	Cities Readiness Initiative: A National Priority The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) is a program to aid cities in increasing their capacity to deliver medication and medical supplies during a large-scale public health emergency, such as a bioterrorism attack. This broadcast is designed to give an overview of CRI for preparedness planners and city officials.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Oct. 20, 2006 1pm-2:30pm	Inescapable Realities in Public Health-Conflict and Collaboration: Building Competency This session will provide a very innovative look at conflict, why it arises, and what we can do to resolve it. We will also discuss collaboration, how it represents ONE approach to conflict resolution, and why it is an essential competency in public health practice.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Oct. 23-27, 2006 or Dec. 18, 2006	B965 Fundamentals of Health Care Emergency Management Functional areas addressed by this course include an overview of relevant standards, regulations and organizations; integration with agencies and stakeholders; ICS as it applies to healthcare; plans and the planning the process; facility and personnel preparedness; exercises and training; surge and related mass casualty issues (including patient care/ethics, evacuation, and public affairs/risk communications), recovery, and finances and reimbursement. For further information, please refer to the IEMC website or contact Kevin Thompson, course manager, at (301) 447-1220 or kevin.thompson@dhs.gov.	Noble Training Cntr Anniston, AL

* For all events at OPHP, please call at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event.

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Oct. 25, 2006 2-3pm	ComNET Featured stories: Explosive Device Detection and Response, Mobile Crime Lab, Special Needs Registration and Tracking and Special Needs Planning and Care.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Nov. 3-5, 2006	Clinical Vaccinology Course This course will focus on new developments and concerns related to use of vaccines in pediatric, adolescent, and adult populations. Information regarding the preliminary program, registration, and hotel accommodations is available online . You can also get this information by e-mailing idcourse@nfd.org , or calling (301) 656-0003, ext. 19.	Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Buckhead Atlanta, GA
Nov. 9, 2006 10-11:00am	Mass Evacuation to Rural Communities The presenters will share results of a recent survey regarding potential behavioral responses of large populations to disaster events - including terrorist attacks - and will discuss key concerns for rural communities to consider as they plan for mass exodus from urban centers. They will also share new efforts underway by the recently funded Advanced Practice Center in western New York.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Nov. 9-10, 2006	Emergency Preparedness for Government Facilities Workshop This conference provides you with strategic resources to prepare for, and recover from, any emergency or disaster. This course will help you create, or improve, your organization-wide emergency management plan to ensure all procedures are in place and all equipment and personnel needs are addressed so you can respond to an emergency situation quickly and instinctively.	Regency Suites 975 W. Peachtree Atlanta, GA, 30309 (404) 876-5003
Nov. 15, 2006	Live Response - Port Security The United States is served by more than 360 commercial ports that provide approximately 3,200 cargo and passenger handling facilities. Keeping our ports secure, without slowing down trade, commerce, or passenger service is a challenge. We will explore the layered defense of port security on this edition of Live Response.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Nov. 16, 2006 or Nov. 29, 2006	Effects of Radiological Agents: Training Public Health Professionals to Prepare For and Respond to Radiological Terrorism and Radiation Emergencies This course will include topics such as signs and symptoms of acute radiation syndrome, triage tools, detection and protection, patient decontamination, blocking agents and psychosocial aspects of radiological emergencies. Go to www.mipreparedness.org for more information and to register.	Dearborn, MI or Grand Rapids, MI
Nov. 30, 2006 1pm-3:30pm	Reducing Risk Factors at Retail and Food Service This program will focus on the topic of reducing risk factors in retail food stores and food service facilities. The goal of this program is to improve the ability of regulators and industry to reduce the occurrence of risk factors and foodborne illness at retail establishments.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Dec. 4-5, 2006	Workshop Series: Practical Aspects of Pandemic Flu Planning Sponsored by UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters, please visit their website for workshop details.	Hilton - LA Univ. City, CA 91608

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Dec. 14, 2006	Managing Contemporary Mass Fatalities Incidents Dennis McGowan - Lead Instructor, National Mass Fatalities Institute, who has over 25 years of fatality/mass fatality management experience and disaster mitigation planning, training, and response, will provide an overview of the new challenges posed by incidents that result in more deaths than are manageable with locally available resources (i.e., causes, public health implications, impacts on clinical facilities, and legal & forensic aspects of human remains management).	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Dec. 13-14, 2006	Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference This conference will cover all aspects of emergency management planning and response for people with disabilities, the elderly, pediatric populations, and animal issues. It will bring together national experts to discuss changes in policies, legislation, response protocols, workplace safety, and disaster management. You will learn new concepts for addressing disability planning in their jurisdictions and "best practices" that can be integrated into all levels of government responsibility and how to incorporate special needs into your emergency management plan.	Omni Shoreham 2500 Calvert St NW Washington, DC 20008 (202) 234-0700
Online	FEMA Independent Study Program: IS-1900 NDMS Federal Coordinating Center Operations Course This course provides training to address the needs of Federal Coordinating Centers (FCCs). Please visit the FEMA website for more information.	Online

Regional News



Region 2 North Preparedness Conference on October 19

Region 2 North is offering a one-day conference entitled: "Partnerships in Preparedness: Solving the Puzzle" on October 19, 2006 at Macomb Community College, South Campus located in Warren, Michigan. The conference is designed to provide essential information regarding the current status of the state and regional preparedness initiatives in response to a mass casualty incident. The target audience includes physicians, nurses of all disciplines, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, public health and emergency preparedness personnel. The conference includes keynote speakers and a series of afternoon breakout sessions. For additional information and a registration form, please go to the [Region 2 North website](#).

Region 7 Medical Bio-defense Network Conference on October 27

The Region 7 Medical Bio-defense Network is proud to announce its fourth annual conference, this year centered on the theme of preparedness for and response to a potential influenza pandemic. The event will be held October 27, 2006 from 8:30am-4:00pm at the Best Western Alpine Lodge in Gaylord, Michigan. You can register [online](#) or by calling Mr. Joshua Olson at (231) 432-8326. Space is limited and the conference organizers request that you register by October 20.

Other News

TSA Eases Travel Restrictions

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) adjusted their air travel restrictions on liquids, aerosols, and gels. As of September 23, travelers may now carry travel-size toiletries through security checkpoints. These travel-size toiletries should be three ounces or less and they should fit comfortably in one, quart-size, clear plastic, zip-top bag. Travelers can also now bring beverages and other items purchased in the secure boarding area on-board aircraft. See the [TSA website](#) for full details.



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